

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08016 271452Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----087320 271454Z /44
O 271432Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3433

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING

REF: STATE 204462

1. GOC MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE PROVIDED US FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM DEBRIEFING OF DEFECTOR (BOGOTA
7915):

THE SOURCE IS A SIMPLE MAN, A FARMER, WHO SERVED WITH
THE GUERRILLA GROUP AND THEN ESCAPED. HE REPORTS THAT THE
GROUP THAT ATTACKED LA MACARENA KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT STARR
WAS THERE. THE DEFECTOR WITNESSED THE CAPTURE OF STARR
AND REMAINED CLOSE TO HIM FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE
DAYS. THE GUERRILLAS THOUGHT THAT STARR WAS A MEMBER OF THE
CIA. THEY TOOK A CAMERA AND SEVERAL LENSES FROM STARR. AT
LEAST TWO OF THE GUERRILLAS SPOKE TO STARR IN ENGLISH.
THEY TREATED STARR VERY WELL. DURING THE FIVE DAYS,
STARR WAS NOT SICK OR INJURED, ONLY SAD. INITIALLY STARR
OFFERED 50 PESOS TO ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS FOR HIS RELEASE.
THE GUERRILLA CHIEFS WERE FRIENDLY TOWARDS STARR AND SPOKE
KINDLY TO HIM DURING THE FIVE DAYS. THE GUERRILLAS TOOK
ADVANTAGE OF STARR'S KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS. HE WAS NOT BOUND OR
HANDCUFFED. A FEMALE GUERRILLA, CONSIDERABLY OLDER
THAN STARR, WAS ASSIGNED TO HELP HIM. STARR WAS ALLOWED TO
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BRING "HIS EQUIPMENT". AT THE END OF THE FIVE DAYS, STARR
SEEMED MORE TRANQUIL. THE GUERRILLA CHIEFS DID NOT DEMONSTRATE
ANY INTENT TO "ADMINISTER JUSTICE" TO STARR (AJUSTICIARLO).
THEY WERE DEVELOPING PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE IF STARR
WAS ACTUALLY A MEMBER OF THE CIA.

2. THE MILITARY OFFICER WHO DEBRIEFED THE DEFECTOR CONSIDERS

HIM HIGHLY RELIABLE AND TRUTHFUL.

3. THE ABOVE INFORMATION MAY BE PASSED TO MRS. JENSEN IN
CONFIDENCE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRIMARY
(DEFECTOR) AND SECONDARY (COLOMBIAN MILITARY) SOURCES ARE
TO BE PROTECTED.

4. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP MORE INFORMATION FROM THE
DEFECTOR AND WILL REPORT ACCORDINGLY.
DREXLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
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Subject: STARR KIDNAPPING
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, US, PC, (STARR, RICHARD)
To: STATE
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